

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

12. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:
 - a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
 - b) —determining the level of one or more gene products, excluding RhoC, which alter the actin-based cytoskeleton of one or more tumor cells in ~~the-a human in a biological sample from a human~~; and
 - eb) comparing the level determined in (ba) with a non-metastatic control, wherein if the level determined in (ba) is greater than the level of the gene product in the non-metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.
14. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:
 - a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
 - b) —determining the level of one or more gene products selected from the group consisting of fibronectin, thymosin β 4, t-PA, angiopoietin 1, IEX-1/Glu96, RTP/NDR1, fibromodulin, Hsp70, IL13 Rec. α 2, Sec61 β , snRNP polypeptide C, collagen I α 2, UBE21, KIAA0156, TGF β superfamily, surfactant protein C, lysozyme M, matrix Gla protein, Tsa-1, collagen III α 1, biglycan, α -catenin, valosin-containing protein, ERK-1, α -actinin 1, calmodulin, EIF4 γ , α -centractin, IQGAP1, cathepsin S, and EF2, in one or more tumor cells in ~~the-a human in a biological sample from a human~~; and
 - eb) comparing the level determined in (ba) with a non-metastatic control,

wherein if the level determined in (ba) is greater than the level of the gene product in the non-metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the metastatic condition is selected from the group consisting of metastatic forms of melanoma, breast cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, bone cancer, throat cancer, brain cancer, testicular cancer, liver cancer, stomach cancer, pancreatic cancer, and combinations thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 12, wherein the biological sample is a blood sample or a cell sample from a tumor in the mammal human.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
- b) — determining the level of fibronectin gene product in one or more tumor cells in ~~the-a human in a biological sample from a human~~; and
- eb) comparing the level determined in (ba) with the level of fibronectin gene product in a non-metastatic control,

wherein if the level determined in (ba) is greater than the level of the fibronectin gene product in said non-metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.

36. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
- b) — determining the level of one or more gene products, excluding RhoC, which alter the actin-based cytoskeleton of one or more tumor cells in ~~the-a human in a biological sample from a human~~; and

eb) comparing the level determined in (ba) with a metastatic control, wherein if the level determined in (ba) is the same as the level of the gene product in the non-metastatic metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.

37. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 36, wherein the biological sample is a blood sample or a cell sample from a tumor in the mammal human.
38. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:
 - a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
 - b) —determining the level of one or more gene products selected from the group consisting of fibronectin, thymosin β 4, t-PA, angiopoietin 1, IEX-1/Glu96, RTP/NDR1, fibromodulin, Hsp70, IL13 Rec. α 2, Sec61 β , snRNP polypeptide C, collagen I α 2, UBE21, KIAA0156, TGF β superfamily, surfactant protein C, lysozyme M, matrix Gla protein, Tsa-1, collagen III α 1, biglycan, α -catenin, valosin-containing protein, ERK-1, α -actinin 1, calmodulin, EIF4 γ , α -centractin, IQGAP1, cathepsin S, and EF2, in one or more tumor cells in the-a human in a biological sample from a human; and
 - c) comparing the level determined in (ba) with a metastatic control, wherein if the level determined in (ba) is the same as the level of the gene product in the metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.
39. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 38, wherein the biological sample is a blood sample or a cell sample from a tumor in the mammal human.

40. (Currently Amended) A method of predicting the likelihood of development of a metastatic condition in a human, comprising the steps of:
- a) ~~obtaining a biological sample from a human to be tested;~~
 - b) —determining the level of fibronectin gene product in one or more tumor cells in ~~the~~a human in a biological sample from a human; and
 - eb) comparing the level determined in (ba) with the level of fibronectin gene product in a metastatic control,
- wherein if the level determined in (ba) is the same as the level of the fibronectin gene product in said metastatic control, then the human has an increased likelihood of developing a metastatic condition.
41. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 40, wherein the biological sample is a blood sample or a cell sample from a tumor in the ~~mammal~~ human.